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LIMING EXPERIMENTS.

By B. Bunting.

In the publication of an article on the "Acidity of Malayan Soils,"* Mr. M. Barrowcliff indicated that it was doubtful whether the application of lime to acid soils would have a beneficial effect until all the acidity had been neutralised, and that it would have merely a neutralising action on the acidic constituents.

As further evidence was required to support the above theory, Mr. Barrowcliff, in collaboration with the writer, initiated a series of experiments to test its validity on Malayan Soils, the results of which are given in detail below.

The Reduction of Soil Acidity.

The chief purpose for which lime is applied to agricultural soils is the correction of "soil acidity," which may be due to the presence of purely mineral constituents or to the accumulation of organic residues produced by the decomposition of the organic constituents.

In temperate climates "soil acidity" is frequently the limiting factor in crop production, although some crops are much less sensitive than others.

The soils of this country being derived to a great extent from acid rocks, and the heavy rainfall being responsible for the leaching out of any lime salts present, we have conditions very favourable for the production of acidity, since no bases exist to neutralise the acids formed from the rapidly decaying vegetable matter. Nevertheless,

*Agricultural Bulletin, F. M. S. Vol. III, No 2.

the natural vegetation flourishes luxuriantly under these conditions, which is in striking contrast to the natural vegetation of acid soils in temperate climates and it appears somewhat doubtful whether many of our tropical crops would be benefitted by neutralisation of the soil, *i.e.* the total reduction of the acidity. On the other hand a partial neutralisation might result in the production of considerable activity in the decomposition of nitrogenous compounds with a resultant improvement in the crop.

It has frequently been observed that excessive applications of lime to moor soils are injurious; the cause of injury being due to loss of nitrogen produced by the rapid decomposition of nitrogenous compounds and the leaching out of nitrate.

From a number of analyses of Malayan Soils, (*loc. cit.*) Mr. Barrowcliff found that the "lime requirement" varied from 2½ to 3 tons per acre on undulating land to 5-6½ tons for clays and peaty clays, whilst one peat soil had an acidity of no less than 14 tons per acre.

In the case of the more acid soils it is quite probable that the total reduction of acidity by a single application of lime would result in the destruction of the equilibrium normally existing between the micro-flora and micro-fauna of the soil.

Liming Experiments at Castleton Estate.

The object of the experiments was to show the relative effect of 1, 2 and 3 tons of lime on the growth of both leguminous and non-leguminous crops on two areas the soils of which had "lime requirements" of 6.4 and 5.4 tons per acre respectively. The controls were unlimed.

An analysis of the soil on which the experiments were conducted showed it to be exceptionally heavy, containing a large preponderance of clay and fine silt particles and to be well supplied with nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid.

Cover and Catch Crop Plots.

The area under experiment was divided into 4 plots, one untreated and the others treated with 1, 2 and 3 tons of quicklime per acre respectively. An untreated strip separated the different plots. Each plot was sub-divided into six sub-plots and the various crops planted transversely across the limed area so that the effect of the different treatment on each and all of the crops could be easily seen, as shown in diagram.

1 A	1 B	1 C	1 D	Sarawak Bean.
2 A	2 B	2 C	2 D	Canavalia ensiformis.
3 A	3 B	3 C	3 D	Groundnuts (on ridges.)
4 A	4 B	4 C	4 D	Groundnuts (on level.)
5 A	5 B	5 C	5 D	Centrosema plumieri.
6 A	6 B	6 C	6 D	Horse Gram.

No.	1 ton	2 tons	3 tons
Lime.	per acre.	per acre.	per acre.

The lime requirement of the soil on which these experiments were carried out was 6.4 tons per acre.

Mr. J. Lambourne, Superintendent, Government Plantations, Telok Anson, who was in charge of the experiments, reports on the different plots as follows:—

Plot 1. Sarawak Bean (Dolichos Hosei).

"This plant was planted from cuttings which were very slow in taking root and growing away. Little difference could be seen between the growth of the plants on the limed and unlimed plots for about 3 months, when those on the limed plots began to show stronger growth. After four months the plants on the limed plots had spread and made a complete cover, while those on the unlimed plot had spread over the ground but more thinly. The difference in the colour of the foliage on the limed and unlimed plots was very noticeable, the former being of a dark green colour while the latter were yellowish and not so strong."

Plot 2. Canavalia ensiformis.

"The seeds of this crop were sown about 2 feet apart across the different plots. The seedlings came up and grew vigorously on the

limed plots, but those on the unlimed plot began to turn yellow and die in patches almost as soon as they appeared above ground. The result was a patchy crop on the unlimed plot and an even plant with strong growth on the limed plots. The plots with two and three tons of lime per acre gave slightly stronger growth than the plot with one ton, but the difference was not very marked."

Plots 3 and 4. Groundnuts (Arachis hypogae).

"These comprised two plots, one being planted on ridges 18 inches apart and 9 inches apart in the rows; the other sown broadcast and harrowed in. The seeds were sown in the early part of May. The percentage germination was good, but the plants on the unlimed plots died off in patches when quite young. Almost from the first a marked difference could be seen between the limed and unlimed plots. The plants grew more evenly and stronger where lime had been applied, whilst the plants on the unlimed plots were thinner and less strong in growth."

The following tables shew the yield of groundnuts obtained under the two systems of planting.

(*a*) Yield of Groundnuts on Ridges.

Plot.	Treatment.	Yield of nuts per plot.	Yield of nuts per acre.	Relative yield.	Lime requirement.
		lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	Tons.
3 A	No lime	1½	25	100	6.4
3 B	1 ton lime	25	417	1668	6.4
3 C	2 „ lime	32	533	2132	6.4
3 D	3 „ lime	32	533	2132	6.4

(*b*) Yield of Groundnuts on Level.

Plot.	Treatment.	Yield of nut per plot.	Yield of nuts per acre.	Relative yield.	Lime requirement.
		lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	Tons.
4 A	No lime	1¼	18	100	6.4
4 B	1 ton lime	18	257	1429	6.4
4 C	2 „ lime	33	471	2619	6.4
4 D	3 „ lime	35	500	2780	6.4

Plot 5. Centrosema plumieri.

"Seeds of this cover crop were sown broadcast across the plots. The seedlings came up evenly and for about 2½ months little difference could be seen in the growth of the plants on the limed plots compared with that of the unlimed plots. Later the plants on the limed plots began to grow more strongly and quite a good cover was obtained, while the plants on the unlimed plot did not look so healthy and growth was slow. The lime did not have such a marked effect on this plant as it had on the other crops."

Plot 6. Horse Gram (Dolichos biflorus).

"Seeds of this plant were sown at the rate of about 8 lbs. per acre. The seedlings came up thickly and grew very well until they obtained their second leaves, when a marked difference between the limed and unlimed plots became apparent. The plants in the unlimed plots began to die off leaving patches of plants which grew well, but not so strongly as the plants on the limed plots, whilst the limed plots grew away evenly and gave a splendid cover, through which it was difficult for weeds to penetrate. This plot was not weeded for 5 months after the seeds were sown and it was only after the plants commenced to die down that weeds began to appear. A slightly thicker cover was obtained where two or three tons of lime per acre was applied, but the difference was not very marked."

GINGELLY PLOTS.

This area was divided into 4 plots, one untreated and the others treated with 1, 2 and 3 tons of quicklime per acre respectively, similar to the other experiments. The following diagram shows the arrangement of the plots.

Plot 1 E.	Plot 2 E.	Plot 3 E.	Plot 4 E.
No lime.	1 ton lime.	2 tons lime.	3 tons lime.

The lime requirement of the soil was 5.4 tons per acre.

Gingelly (Sesamum Indicum).

"The plots were sown with gingelly about 3 weeks after the lime was applied. The seeds were sown broadcast at the rate of 5 lbs. per acre. The seedlings germinated in a few days and came up very thickly, a marked difference being apparent between the limed and unlimed plots. On the limed plots the seedlings came up evenly and grew away vigorously, while those on the unlimed plot came up in patches and growth was slow. As the plants grew the difference became more marked, and after the plants flowered and the seed capsules began to set, those on the unlimed plot be-

came diseased whilst those on the limed plots remained healthy. The whole of the area that was limed irrespective of the quantity applied grew and seeded well, but the plots to which two or three tons of lime had been applied gave better results than the plot with one ton. The plants in these plots were stronger and grew larger than those in the plot with one ton of lime per acre. Very little difference could be seen between the plots with two and three tons of lime per acre."

The following table shows the yield of gingelly seed and the weight of dry matter per plot obtained from the crop taken shortly after the application of the lime.

YIELDS OF GINGELLY (1ST CROP).

Seed sown May 5th, 1915 and harvested August 17th, 1915.

Plot.	Treatment.	Gingelly Seed.			Gingelly Plant.			
		Yield per plot.	Yield per acre.	Relative yield.	Yield per plot.	Yield per acre	Relative yield.	Lime requirement
		lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	tons.
1 E.	No lime.	38	88	100	196	456	100	5.4
2 E.	1 ton lime.	166	386	436	353	821	178	5.4
3 E.	2 ,, lime.	215	500	565	615	1430	310	5.4
4 E.	3 ,, lime.	216	502	567	771	1793	389	5.4

In order to test the effect of the initial application of lime on a second crop the plots were re-sown eight months later and gave the following yields.

YIELDS OF GINGELLY (2ND CROP).

Seed sown January 14th, 1916 and harvested April 25th, 1916.

Plot.	Treatment.	Gingelly Seed.			Gingelly Plant.			
		Yield per plot.	Yield per acre.	Relative yield.	Yield per plot.	Yield per acre.	Relative yield.	Lime requirement
		lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	tons.
1 E.	No. lime	30	70	100	147	342	100	5.4
2 E.	1 ton lime.	81	188	269	246	572	167	5.4
3 E.	2 ,, lime.	90	209	299	327	760	222	5.4
4 E.	3 ,, lime.	101	235	336	389	904	264	5.4

Results of the Experiments.

From periodical inspections of the different plots the following observations were made by the writer:—

In every case the plot which received no lime showed much poorer growth than those which were limed, the ground being absolutely bare in patches and the plants not so strong as those on the limed plots. The plots which received 1 ton of lime were completely covered and the crops appeared to be much healthier in colour than the unlimed plot. The plots which received 2 and 3 tons of lime produced a slightly thicker cover when compared with the 1 ton plot, but there was no marked difference between the 2 and 3 ton plots.

The yield of groundnuts given in Tables I and II show a distinct correlation with the above observations.

Reference to Tables III and IV show the yields of gingelly seed together with the weight of dry matter produced by the plant, and from an inspection of the figures it will be seen that the plots which received 1 ton of lime gave large increases in yield when compared with the unlimed control. The plots which received 2 tons of lime gave a further increase whilst the application of 3 tons of lime produced little or no difference compared with 2 tons, which indicates that crop production was reaching its limit.

Influence of Lime on Yield of Latex.

The writer recently published the results of a series of "Manuring Experiments on Rubber"* and the following table may be of interest in showing the effect of lime on the yield of latex.

The soil on which the experiments were carried out consisted of a fairly rich loam of a peaty nature overlying an alluvial clay sub-soil.

Yield of Rubber for 11 months.

Plot.	Treatment.	Yield per 100 trees per annum.	Relative Yield	Lime requirement.
		lbs.		tons.
8 A.	No lime.	204.9	100	6
6 A.	1 ton lime.	252.1	123	6
8 B.	No lime	192.4	100	4
6 B.	1 ton lime.	242.1	126	4

As will be seen from the above table, although the soils showed an acidity of 4 and 6 tons the application of only 1 ton of lime had a marked influence on the yield of latex.

*Agricultural Bulletin, F.M.S. Vol. IV, No. 5.

Conclusions.

The experiments show that a decided improvement in crop production can be obtained by the application of lime in quantities not sufficient to neutralise entirely the acidity of the soil, and that such improvement is not directly proportional to the reduction of acidity.

In determining what quantity of lime it is most profitable to apply, the results indicate that an application of one ton of burnt lime (Calcium oxide), say every 4 years, will give the best return. If on some soils heavier applications are considered necessary it is recommended that the interval between the applications be reduced, rather than increasing the quantity of lime at a single application.

The above conclusions are based on the growth of a limited number of crops on one particular type of soil, but further experiments are being arranged on different types of soils, the results of which will be published later.

SHADE TREES.

By J. N. Milsum.

The judicious planting of shade trees for roadsides and open spaces requires more than passing attention as the value of such trees in the tropics can hardly be overestimated. Shade trees not only afford a protection from the powerful tropical sun but also render the atmosphere cooler by checking radiation from the soil.

The qualifications of a satisfactory shade tree are many, the principal being that it should be evergreen or at least have the habit of renewing its foliage immediately after shedding the old leaves.

For the purpose of comparison the situations that are usually required to be planted with such trees may be separated under three headings. Streets, Roadsides and Open Spaces.

In making a selection of trees for street planting a number of important factors have to be considered. Trees for this purpose should be deep rooting, otherwise damage will be done to drains and pipes in the vicinity. The genus *Ficus* is an offender in this respect, the roots of these trees being often exposed to the surface of the soil and causing harm to brick and cement-work that offer an entrance to their numerous spreading roots. Trees of a centrifugal habit often cause damage to roads, as they throw off the rain

to the outer end of the branches, resulting in a stream of water falling on to the road at one spot. *Ficus Benjamina* is such a tree especially so during the early part of its growth.

Small-leaved trees are, as a rule to be recommended for street planting, not only on account of less litter being made but also because of their allowing a greater circulation of air into streets bordered by tall buildings.

Usually, a fast-growing tree is required but many trees of rapid growth are often unsuitable owing to their shortness of life.

Trees that produce a few large boughs are generally safer than those that produce a number of smaller ones. The brittleness of boughs must also be considered as during gales; branches may be thrown down into the street and be a source of danger to persons or vehicles passing at the time.

Fruit trees are not suitable for planting either streets or roads, because they not only tempt natives to climb them and break the boughs but also in the case of trees bearing heavy fruit, these falling may harm persons passing below.

A good shade tree should have a straight stem for at least 12 feet from the ground and a spreading head. Only well shaped seedlings should be planted but proper pruning will improve many trees.

Trees for roadsides should generally conform to the requirements of those for street planting but owing to the greater space available, trees having a larger spread may be utilized. Also a variation may be made and several species interplanted with satisfactory results. A good example of this is to be seen in Station Road, Taiping, Perak, where three species of trees are planted on either sides of the road in the following sequence; *Casuarina equisetifolia,* Para Rubber, Tree and *Swietenia Mahogani.* In making a selection of shade trees for open spaces, scenic effect should be considered in conjunction with shade requirements. Individual trees should be afforded plenty of space to allow full development.

Treatment of Shade Trees.

Before a commencement can be made to plant up shade trees to any extent, a supply stock must be raised from seeds or cuttings.

When such easily grown trees as the Rain Tree and Angsana are only wanted, the seeds may be sown in prepared nursery beds of reasonable size. The beds should be well worked and enriched by the addition of plenty of well-rotted cow manure and jungle soil. When the soil is inclined to be heavy, a quantity of coarse sand should be added . The seed beds should be shaded with attaps and watered during dry weather.

Cuttings of many species of trees root readily but though often making good growth during the first few years of their existence, usually in the long run seedling trees grow faster and are of a better shape.

For the majority of shade trees the most satisfactory results are obtained by growing them in bamboo baskets until they are of sufficient size for planting in their permanent positions. Bamboo baskets for this purpose are obtainable at the present time at about six dollars per thousand. The seeds should be sown in the baskets containing good soil and plunged in a shaded nursery bed. Care must be taken to destroy any white-ants that make their appearance, as the baskets attract them resulting in the young trees being finally attacked and killed. To ensure straight and clean trunks the seedlings should be grown rather close together in the nursery beds. Lateral growths should be pruned off and the young trees encouraged to develop a good crown.

The majority of trees raised from seed under favourable conditions should be ready to plant out into their permanent quarters at the end of a year.

To ensure success with shade trees it is necessary that proper attention be given to their planting and preservation. The holes for the trees should be made from six to ten feet from the road and always as far away from any drains as possible. The distance of planting apart varies with the tree that it is desired to plant. Usually thirty feet between each tree is the most satisfactory distance.

When it is required to shade a street as soon as possible, quick-growing trees may be planted alternately with the permanent trees and cut out when the latter have grown sufficiently to give the necessary shade.

The holes for the trees should be from two to three feet deep and the same wide. The greater part of the earth should be removed from the hole and a compost of jungle soil and well-rotted cow manure replaced. When the soil is inclined to be heavy and damp, the addition of coarse sand will promote good drainage and thereby assist rooting. In planting, care should be taken to see that the replaced earth is well trodden down around the trees.

The trees will in most cases require to be protected by a guard of some description. This is specially necessary on roadsides where natives graze their cattle, as young trees once attacked by cattle are invariably permanently damaged or altogether killed. Stout bamboo poles kept together with barbed wire or rotans serve as a useful guard but in streets where something neat is required, a

cheap guard can be made by placing three posts in triangular fashion round the trees and nailing them together by a few rows of rails.

Trees should be planted as far as possible at the commencement of the rainy seasons, say in October and March. Upon the advent of dry weather the soil around the trees should be stirred to assist aeration and obviate evaporation.

As the trees grow the unnecessary boughs should be removed. In doing this the ends of the boughs should be cut off quite smooth and tarred to prevent the access of fungi or insects.

Trees that are likely to be blown about by the wind should be tied to a stout stake immediately upon planting.

Pruning should be performed with a sharp knife and in the case of large boughs, with a saw. In cutting large boughs the cut end should be sloped to prevent water lodging there and setting up decay, which, if left unattended to will soon result in the death of the tree. The object of pruning is to improve the shape of the tree by retaining a small number of large boughs as against a large number of small ones.

If the tree produces shoots from the base of the stem, they should be removed as soon as possible as they only serve to weaken the tree.

Parasites and epiphytes will in all probability make their appearance after the trees have attained some size, these should be removed. Parasitic plants are those that obtain their nourishment from the tree they grow upon whereas epiphytes merely grow on the bark and do not penetrate the bough. The most injurious of all the parasites in this country are the several species of *Loranthus* which resemble in habit the Mistletoe, the most frequently met with being *Loranthus ferrugineus,* Roxb. These plants often do great damage to shade trees and should be removed by cutting the affected bough off below that part on which the parasite has gained a hold. An article appeared in the *Agricultural Bulletin* of the Federated Malay States, Volume III, No. 1, dealing with species of *Loranthus* on Rubber Trees.

Many epiphytic plants do no or little damage. Orchids seldom harm the trees they grow upon. It is understood that in Taiping, orchids are allowed to remain on the shade trees in the Streets as tending to beautify the trees. The Pigeon Orchid, *Dendrobium crumenatum,* Sw. though producing its numerous white flowers for a day at a time only, is a pretty object when growing on shade trees. The most injurious of the epiphytes are said to be the little creeping fern, *Drymoglossum piloselloides,* recognised by its round

flat vegetative fronds and erect narrow spore-bearing ones; and *Dischidia nummularia,* a creeping plant having round fleshy leaves produced close together and lying flat on the bark. These plants if allowed to grow unchecked often cover a bough and cause it to die and fall.

The climbing Figs are also injurious and should also be removed. Some species of *Ficus* grow very large and not only kill the tree they grow upon, but eventually become a tree themselves.

It is intended to deal individually with suitable shade trees, in the next issue of the *Agricultural Bulletin.*

THE GIANT ORCHID, GRAMMATOPHYLLUM SPECIOSUM. BL:

A very fine example of this orchid was recently observed growing on a tall tree in a new clearing situated between Seremban and Sungei Gadut Railway Stations in Negri Sembilan. The tree, about 100 feet high and apparently dead, is within a short distance of the railway line and the characteristic habit of this fine orchid was easily discernable from the railway carriage.

From reports received it would appear that this orchid is flowering consistently all over the Peninsula.

G. speciosum is a giant among orchids, the thick growths being from six to seven feet long. The racemes are over seven feet in length and often carry over fifty flowers, each bloom being about five inches in diameter. The flowers are ochre-yellow, blotched with purple and the spikes are produced from the base of the young growths.

The Giant Orchid is frequently met with in Malaya and is usually to be seen growing as an epiphyte on tall trees in dense jungle. It has however been observed growing on the ground and under cultivation may be successfully grown in the open on a foundation of broken rocks and jungle soil. Two fine specimens so treated are growing vigorously in the Public Gardens, Kuala Lumpur; though no flowers have been produced this year, probably owing to the fact that they were lifted and replanted in the early part of the year.

J, N, M,

IX Summary of Locust Work for the 2nd Quarter, 1916,

By F. W. South.

The destruction work commenced in March was carried on throughout April and the whole or part of May in the district of Tampin and in Malacca and Johore. Large numbers of hoppers were destroyed, but unfortunately also a considerable number of flying swarms escaped especially along the railway line between Tampin and Gemas and on the Malacca Johore boundary just inside Johore. The escapes were largely due to the great difficulty of getting labour in certain centres especially along the railway line where the population is small and what Malays there are were all busily occupied in preparing their land for padi.

Staff Changes.

The services of Mr. R. D. Tollemache, Special Assistant in the Coast district, were terminated at the end of April in accordance with the policy of reducing the European staff to which reference was made in the report for the 1st quarter. There were no other changes.

Selangor.

In April there were three swarms of flying locusts present in the State of which two were small and one large. Near the end of the month an additional swarm said to have come in from the Negri Sembilan was seen first between Lengging and Broga and later at Serdang. The movements of these swarms were followed fairly closely, but at times they disappeared in the jungle and were lost sight of for several days. In June a swarm was seen at Sepang Road but it was uncertain if this was a new swarm which had come in from the south or the large old swarm which has usually been present in the neighbourhood of the Kuchai Road. At the end of the quarter 3 small swarms were present in the State, one at the 12 mile on the Ulu Gombak road, one at Ulu Langat and one at Broga. Besides these it was uncertain if there were one, or two, large swarms; one was known to be present near Sepang, and one was thought to be in the jungle off the Kuchai road, but it was not clear if these were one and the same swarm or not.

The large swarm from Kuchai was seen by a reliable officer on June 7th coupling at the 8th mile on the Sungei Besi road. In spite of this no breeding grounds or hoppers have been found in the State, and the problem presented by the continued presence of these

flying swarms which do not appear to have increased much in size or numbers and have not been known to lay any eggs for 7 months remains still unsolved. The same insects in at any rate 3 of the swarms appear to have lived in the flying stage for this unusually long period without laying eggs and without dying out in any numbers. The question of what has been happening in the case of these swarms is an interesting one. It is possible that breeding grounds have been overlooked and that hoppers have been present and have developed in remote places. Against this supposition, however, it may be pointed out that the number and size of the swarms has varied very little, instead of increasing considerably as might have been expected if breeding had taken place; while, further, it seems unlikely that breeding grounds would have all been missed, as the locusts always appear to lay their eggs in open places and have not been known to lay in the jungle itself.

Negri Sembilan.

There were no locusts present in the Seremban and Coast districts during this quarter of the year. Consequently no staff was required in Seremban district. Of the three men working as scouts in the Coast district two were transferred to Tampin district and one only was left to watch the southern and south eastern boundaries.

In the Tampin district the work of destroying hoppers, commenced in March, was carried on vigorously until the end of May and during the quarter 1020 swarms were poisoned, making a total of 1110 swarms destroyed during the breeding season from March 20 to May 30. The more satisfactory work was done in the centres north of Tampin, Yeu, Johol, Ulu Gemencheh and Selaru. In these places labour was fairly easily obtainable. Along the railway line at Tampin, Keru and Pondoi, Ayer Kuning, Batang Malaka and Gemencheh a considerable amount of work was done, but labour was very hard to obtain and flying swarms in some numbers escaped here, especially from Ayer Kuning and Gemencheh where the limited labour force prevented all the sprayers from being used.

During the month of June scouting work was carefully organised and the new flying swarms were kept under observation as fully as the nature of the country would allow. At the beginning of June 20 flying swarms were known, but at the end of the month these were reduced to 15 partly because some swarms had joined up with others and partly because some had gone into Malacca and remained there. Unfortunately many of the flying swarms moved northward into the Kuala Pilah district which has thus become reinfected. Four swarms were known at Ayer Kuning and Gemencheh, but the

remainder were scattered through the Jalang country north of Tampin or had gone as far north as Pertang (one swarm) Kuala Pilah (two swarms) and Bahau (one swarm). At the end of the quarter all apparatus was being cleaned up and repaired and arrangements were being made to begin destruction work again and to meet the labour difficulty so far as might be possible by bringing in Tamils from Selangor.

Malacca.

The destruction work commenced in March was continued throughout the month of April up to May 7th when all the hoppers had disappeared having either been destroyed or escaped as fliers. In April reports were received of numerous hoppers in the 3rd, 4th and 5th instars around Keru and Tebong on the Malacca side of the line. These were not known to exist previously and more apparatus had to be ordered to enable work on them to be done. Owing to the late stage at which they were discovered most of them escaped before they could be destroyed. In other centres comparatively few swarms escaped out of a very large generation of hoppers. During the season from March 24 to May 7 a total of 739 swarms was destroyed. The main centres were as follows:— A large area running from Jasin to Chabau, from there through Chohong to Chin Chin and back to Jasin; another along the Jasin-Chin Chin road and down the Merlimau Road from the junction with the Chin Chin road; another around and inside the triangle Machap-Selandar-Kesang; a fourth around Keru-Tebong-Batu Berkarat and Gadek; with two more small centres, one at China Puteh near Kendong and one about two miles north of Alor Gajah on the Tampin Road. The largest number of gangs of coolies working on any one day was 14, the average number for the whole season being about 9 per day.

During May and June a careful system of scouting was arranged. At the end of May there were 17 flying swarms in Malacca whose position was known. Towards the middle of June fliers in large numbers came from Johore into Chabau, Chohong and Merlimau and these with the swarms already present made the location of the separate swarms impossible. It was known however that fliers were present at Batang Malaka, Selandar, Nyalas, Jus, Durian Tunggal, Lendu, Sungei Udang, Ayer Molek, Sungei Bahru, Batu Berandam and most of the Central district early in June in addition to those which came in from Johore. On the 23rd June eggs were laid in Chabau, Chohong, and Chin Chin and a few

days later at Rim, Ulu Jasin, Ayer Panas Estate and Kesang. Near the end of the month arrangements were made to flood several breeding grounds in dry sawahs.

All apparatus was repaired and put in order, additional supplies were obtained and preparations were made to destroy as thoroughly as possible the very large numbers of hoppers which it was evident were about to appear in Malacca in the breeding season just commencing when the half year closed.

JOHORE.

The destruction work started in March was carried on until May 13th and in all 294 swarms were destroyed in the three districts where hoppers were present during the season March 7th to May 13th. In all three districts some fliers escaped and these were afterwards joined by other swarms from Malacca and the Negri Sembilan with the result that a large generation of hoppers was expected to appear in July and some had already hatched out in the Panchor neighbourhood on June 17th. Arrangements were all completed for commencing the work of destruction during July when the majority of the hoppers were expected to hatch.

Batu Anam. In April only one flying swarm was reported in this district. It was seen at Ulu Palong, went to Tambak and finally to Gemas over the border. In May, however, numerous swarms arrived from outside and settled in three districts (1) Gemas and Gomali (2) Jementah and (3) Tambak and Palong near the Pahang boundary. These swarms remained in these centres during June, but two additional swarms came in, one settled at Paya Luas near the railway line at Segamat and the other at Buloh Kasap. There were no hoppers throughout the quarter.

Panchor, Muar River. Destruction of hoppers was carried on here from April 1st to May 3rd. Most of the work was at Grisek, but some was done at Pagoh near the back of Nordanal Estate. From the latter place a swarm escaped and flew towards Sagil and Jementah. Three small swarms escaped from Grisek and remained moving about in the neighbourhood throughout May. Hoppers appeared on June 17th and from then to the end of the month were found at Pagoh, Sungei Rengam (3 miles from Panchor) and Grisek.

Destruction work on these hoppers was not commenced until June 28th owing to the impossibility of obtaining labour. The durian season was at its height and all the Malays and Javanese of the district were engaged in collecting the fruit and taking them down to Muar. A few men were, however, eventually collected and work was started.

Sungei Mati. During April the work of destroying hoppers in this district continued throughout the month until the 27th at various places between the 9th and 15th miles on the Tangkak road, at Pengkalan Besar and at Serom. One flying swarm escaped from Pengkalan Besar and flew across the Kesang river into Malacca. All the other locusts were destroyed. The gang from here was then sent to assist in the Tangkak district where it worked until May 10th. Later in May fliers came into the district again. One swarm came to Pengkalan Besar and moved to Bukit Tampoi, another came to Bukit Pasir on the Muar side of the river. In June the latter swarm which came from Grisek crossed the river to Serom where another swarm from up the river joined it after staying at Kolam for a few days. The largest swarm, the 4th in the district came from Tangkak and at one time extended from the 11th to the 13th miles along the main road. It broke up into a number of small swarms and these were scattered along the road about 1 mile in. It was hoped that the locusts would remain to the north of the river and a careful watch was being kept to ascertain if they crossed again.

Tangkak. During April destruction work continued throughout the whole month, a spraying gang and a driving gang begin employed and work was carried on in numerous places around Tangkak. A swarm of young fliers came to Paya Mas and there were also a flying swarm at Bekok and one or two at Asahan, these were being kept under observation as far as possible. The driving gang finished work at the end of the month, but the poisoning gang continued to work until May 13th together with the gang from Sungei Mati which worked near Sagil from May 4th to 10th. A few small swarms escaped and were located in May at Paya Mas, Ayer Panas, Sagil, Asahan, Tanah Merah and Sealang. During June one swarm from up the river settled in the Sagil district and others came in from Malacca. At the end of the month a breeding ground was found at Guang Penang near Tangkak and flying swarms were known at Paya Mas, Kampong Tengah, Sulok close to Tangkak, Sagil, Sealang, Tanah Merah, Belamang, Chenas, Belading and Bekok. In this district also, therefore, a large number of Hoppers were expected in July.

The locust did some damage during the quarter by eating padi at Panchor in May and young coco-nuts at Paya Mas and Kampong Tengah in June.

Conclusion.

The weather during this and the last quarter appears to have been very favourable to the locusts. In spite of the destruction of large numbers of hoppers during the season from March to the end of May, the number of flying swarms in the Tampin district, Malacca and Johore is now as large as it has ever been. All the locusts in the country, with the exception of the few swarms in Selangor are in the districts named and the positions of most of the swarms are known approximately so that nearly all the breeding grounds should be found fairly easily. Preparations have been made to carry on the work especially vigorously during the hopper season which is expected in July and subsequent months and considerable additional quantities of apparatus have been provided. The success of the work in the coming hopper season must depend on the supply of labour: It is certain that the Bulan Puasa and Hari Raya will not facilitate matters in this respect. A really successful season's work at this stage would, however, produce a very marked effect on the number of locusts and tend to overcome the check produced by the unexpectedly large generation of hoppers present from March to May. An effort will be made to obtain a satisfactory result, but no forecast can be given of what may be expected until it is seen if labour is obtainable in sufficient quantity to avoid delays.

State.	District.	Locality.	Date.	Swarms Driven.	Tins.	Swarms Poisoned.	Total Swarms.	State Totals.
Negri Sembilan	Tampin and Kuala Pilah.	Ayer Kuning	March 20-May 30	...	...	107	107	
		Batang Malaka		...	...	86	86	
		Gemencheh		...	...	55	55	
		Gedok		...	...	24	24	
		Keru		...	...	216	216	
		Tampin		...	...	10	10	
		Tampin Tengah		...	...	36	36	
		Repah Estate		...	...	20	20	
		Yeu		...	...	126	126	
		Johol		...	...	54	54	
		Ulu Gemoncheh		...	...	153	153	
		Lunding		...	...	19	19	
		Semat		...	...	40	40	
		Summah Sah		...	...	58	58	
		Dangee		...	...	53	53	
		Selaru		...	...	53	53	
		Totals				1,110	1,110	Total Negri Sembilan 1,110

Locust Work Results March 7—May 30, 1916.

State.	District.	Locality.	Date.	Swarms Driven.	Tins.	Swarms Poisoned.	Total Swarms.	State Totals.
Malacca		Chin Chin Chabau Chohong Kesang Machap Selandar Merlimau Road Gadek Tebong Keru Kemuning	March 24-May 7	739	...		739	
				739			739	Total Malacca 739
Johore	Tangkak	Tangkak	March 7-May 13	42	206	102	144	
	Sungei mati		March 7-April 27	...	...	78	78	
	Muar River	Grisek	April 1-May 3	...	...	72	72	
				42	206	252	294	Total Johore 294

Grand Total 2143

Minutes of Meeting of the

PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALAYA,

held at 12 Market Street, Kuala Lumpur, on August 30th 1916, at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mr. W. Duncan (in the Chair),

and the following *Delegates*:

From Batang Padang D.P.A.:—	Messrs.	T. H. Stewart and C. E. Graburn.
„ Batu Tiga „	„	H. L. Jarvis and G. H. Bennett.
„ Central Pahang P.A.:—	„	P. J. A. Williams and R. de Bondy.
„ Central Perak „	Mr.	J. S. Ferguson.
„ Johore P.A.:—	Messrs.	A. L. Buyers and J. H. Monson.
„ Kajang D.P.A.:—	„	E. G. Leyne, C. R. Ferrers and A. C. Hayton.
„ Kapar „	„	Noel Fisher and A. Mahler.
„ Klang „	„	E. B. Prior and H. R. Quartley.
„ Kuala Lumpur D.P.A.:—	„	F. G. Harvey, F. Clyde Jeavons and W. Leggatt.
„ Kuala Selangor „	„	L. A. Irving, Thos. H. Menzies and R. S. McCulloch.
„ Lower Perak P.A.:—	„	R. H. Phillips and W. Dell.
„ Malay Pen. Agric. Ass.:—	Mr.	J. H. Baldwin.
„ Negri Sembilan P.A.:—	Messrs.	V. A. Tayler, J. D. McCulloch, J. Bruce, A. Dupuis-Brown, W. J. Doughty, G. E. Teale and V. B. Frazer.
„ Ulu Selangor D.P.A.:—	„	S. Harding and W. de L. Brooke.

Honorary Members:—The Hon'ble Mr. E .Macfadyen and Mr. J. R. O. Aldworth (Controller of Labour).

Visitors:—Dr. C. L. Sansom (P.M.O.), Messrs. George Grant, J. S. C. Saunders, M. A. P. Gilman, A. D. Hargis, F. T. Wynyard Wright, D. F. Moller, N. G. Overend, L. Mooijaart and Carlyle Bell.

Secretary:—Mr. H. C. E. Zacharias.

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1. *Minutes* of the Meeting held on June 25th are taken as read, confirmed and signed.

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2. Indian Immigration Committee.

The *Secretary* reports the receipt of the following letter:—

169 Craiglea Drive,
Morningside, Edinburgh,
June 18th, 1916.

To

The Secretary,
The Planters' Association of Malaya,
Kuala Lumpur.

Sir,

The Controller of Labour, F. M. S. has sent me the original of your letter of 6th May last conveying to me an expression of thanks of the Planters' Association of Malaya on the occasion of my retirement.

2. I am very grateful to your Association for their high appreciation of my services during the years I worked at Negapatam, South India.

3. I have to ask you of your courtesy to be kind enough to convey to your Association my best thanks for their resolution passed at the Meeting held on the 26th April last.

I beg to remain, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Sgd.) E. C. Foston.

3. Labour Code: Section 66, ii.

The *Secretary* reports the exchange of the following letters:—

Kuala Lumpur, 27th June, 1916.

Chairman,
Indian Immigration Committee,
Kuala Lumpur.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter 2 in. 274 of the 31st of May, and in reply I am instructed to enquire when your Committee will consider the matter in question.

I have, etc.,
(Sgd.) H. C. E. Zacharias,
Secretary.

No. 274/1916.

Kuala Lumpur, 4th July, 1916.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 27th June ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that the next ordinary meeting of the Indian Immigration Committee will not be held until the beginning of November next.

I have, etc.,
(Sgd.) J. R. O. Aldworth,
Chairman, Indian Immigration Committee.

The Secretary,
Planters' Association of Malaya,
Kuala Lumpur.

Kuala Lumpur, July 10th, 1916.

J. R. O. Aldworth Esq.,
Chairman, Indian Immigration Committee,
Kuala Lumpur.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter 5/274 of the 4th inst. and note that the next meeting of your Committee will be held in November.

May I take this opportunity of making clear a point in my letter of May 29th, viz. that what this Association urges is not any amendment of the existing law, but merely a change in the administrative practice of the Labour Department, which—so this Association submits—should, on receiving a complaint from an

employer in accordance with section 66, 2 of the Labour Code, investigate the case complained of and, if considered a good one in their opinion, take it to Court and conduct the prosecution, as the Department does in the case of other offences against the Labour Code.

I have, etc.,
(Sgd.) H. C. E. Zacharias,
Secretary.

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7 in 274/1916.

Kuala Lumpur, 18th July, 1916.

Sir,

In acknowledging receipt of your letter dated the 10th July, 1916, I have the honour to inform you that I am unable to direct the officers of this department to institute prosecutions under Section 66 (ii) of the Labour Code, which has always been held by this department to require that the complaint shall be laid before the Magistrate by an employer.

I have, etc.,
(Sgd.) J. R. O. Aldworth,
Controller of Labour, F. M. S.

The Secretary,
Planters' Association of Malaya,
Kuala Lumpur.

Mr. *Tayler* does not think the matter should be left in that unsatisfactory position. It was absolutely absurd that a prosecution under the Labour Code for an offence against the Labour Code should rest with a private employer instead of with the Labour Department.

Mr. *Bennett* quite agrees and mentions that every pay-day on his estate, for instance, there came crimpers down from Sungkai from a certain estate, which was apparently carrying on a regular crimping campaign.

Mr. *Aldworth* wishes to suggest, if any resolution in the sense indicated by Mr. Tayler was going to be adopted, that reasons should be adduced, why employers did not avail themselves of the facilities afforded to them under the law, as it stands.

Mr. *Macfadyen* suggests as a reason the fact that these facilities were non-existent. It surely was obvious that the Labour Department had facilities for prosecuting; employers had not. He points out the inconsistency and unfairness it was to employers

that whereas the Labour Department habitually prosecuted under certain sections of the Labour Code, it was apparently not in a position to prosecute under those few clauses of the Labour Code which were framed with the intention of protecting such rights as employers were allowed to possess. A very common offence under the Labour Code, which he took merely as an instance, was that native employers neglected to comply with the condition under which they were allowed to employ Tamil labour, that they keep books in the English language. Breach of that clause was exceedingly common, yet if he as an employer wished to prosecute for it he was not allowed to do so. No doubt one could find plenty of other instances in which an employer would certainly be refused permission by the Court to bring a prosecution under the Labour Code on the ground that it was the business of the Controller of Labour to do so. If that were sauce for the goose he ventured to think that it should be sauce for the gander also.

Mr. *Aldworth* considers that the question he had put had not been answered. The fact was and remained that in this particular instance the law did lay the duty of prosecuting on the employer, and that employers did not prosecute. The conclusion seems to him irresistible that employers did not prosecute, because they thought the offence not sufficiently serious, to take the trouble of doing so.

Mr. *Tayler* moves "that in the opinion of this Association the onus of prosecuting for offences under Section 66 (ii) of the Labour Code should rest upon the Controller of Labour."

Mr. *Brooke* seconds the motion, which is carried unanimously.

The *Secretary* is instructed to forward the resolution to the Chief Secretary together with a statement of the Association's reasons for the proposed change.

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4. **Labour Code: Section 225.**

The *Secretary* reports the receipt of the following letters:—

Sungkai, August 10th, 1916.

H. C. E. Zacharias Esq.,
Secretary, Planters' Association of Malaya,
Kuala Lumpur.

Sir,

I enclose a letter from Mr. C. B. Graburn, of Sungei Klah Estate, one of the constituents of our District Planters' Association.

The subject matter speaks for itself, but the instance quoted is so clearly indicative of a practice that should be nipped in the bud that I have no hesitation in placing the matter before the P.A.M. for discussion at their next General Meeting as one that my Association would wish threshed out with a view to obtaining a more equitable ruling of the question than is at present afforded by Section 225 of the Labour Code.

I will therefore ask you to arrange that Mr. Graburn's letter come up for discussion at the coming General Meeting.

I am, etc.,
(Sgd.) T. H. B. Phillips,
Secretary,
Batang Padang District Planters' Assen.

6th August, 1916.

H. C. E. Zacharias Esq.,
Secretary, P. A. M.,
Kuala Lumpur.

Dear Sir,

REGULATION OF LOCALLY RECRUITED LABOURERS.

With reference to the point I raised at the last P. A. M. meeting on the subject of the reading of Section 225 Labour Code, I have the following case to bring to your notice.

Two kanganies arrived on this estate yesterday and asked for work; they stated that they could bring about 200 coolies, both tappers and weeders, and that the coolies could be brought in a month's time. Enquiries elicited that the kanganies were employed upon an estate in Pahang and that they had working under them the number of coolies mentioned. Further, the coolies had been taken to this estate by the same kanganies and according to them they received about $1,000 for the trouble and expenses. No. 1 kangany (the speaker throughout the interview) stated that the coolies were *his* coolies and when pressed to explain how he had obtained them he said that he had been sent to India some 2 years previously by an estate in Seremban, *who had paid all his expenses plus Rs. 10 per head* commission. He further stated that he only remained about a year on this estate and then took all *his* coolies away.

He further admits that although he had received the commission and expenses from the estate in Pahang to the amount mentioned the coolies had only been there a matter of a few months and

that on account of high prices for food etc., he wished to obtain employment for himself and the coolies in South Perak. The reason given, however, is not borne out by fact, as he admitted that he had a further 50 coolies in the same district, but these he did not intend to bring. He particularly asked me not to inform his present employer of his intentions, as he had not yet told the coolies to give notice.

The point is, that this estate may be robbed of a considerable portion of its labour force through the influence of one man, and the unfortunate fact remains that the kangany is within the law as interpreted by the present reading of Section No. 225 of Labour Code.

To an estate which is short of labour and has perhaps a not too particular where-the-labour-comes-from-manager a man of this type is a god-send and even if the estate had to pay a registration fee of $5 per head, it would be considerably cheaper than obtaining raw recruits from India.

I have of course put the facts before the manager of the Pahang estate.

I am, etc.,
(Sgd.) C. B. Graburn,
Manager.

Sungkai, 16th August, 1916.

H. C. E. Zacharias Esq.,
Secretary, P. A. M.,
Kuala Lumpur.

Dear Sir,

SECTION 225 OF LABOUR CODE.

Further to my letter of August 10th current:—

(1) Mr. Graburn has notified me that he has since discovered that the would-be purveyor of Tamil coolies (styled in his letter to you of August 6th as No. 1 Kangany) is not any longer a kangany on the estate in Pahang, but keeps a Kedai near-by. This would seem to increase the flagrancy of the attempt to traffic in coolies to the utter disregard of every interest except that of the man's own pocket.

(2) As another local case in point, I enclose a digest of a charge brought by the Acting Manager of Sungei Kruit of "attempting to seduce a labourer from his employment."

(3) Again, on my Estate, it was ascertained that 3 coolies who had already given notice were persuading others to do so and follow

them to a neighbouring estate. As much by luck as anything I was able to squash this threat of losing labour.

As I have this year recruited from India more than half the total number of coolies now on my Check-Roll, I am also interested in any steps the P. A. M. may see fit to urge in order to remove from Section 225 of the Labour Code this loophole that at present permits of unrestrained traffic in Tamil coolies to the detriment of Estates that are trying to build up settled Tamil labour force.

I am, etc.,

(Sgd.) T. H. B. Phillips,

Secretary, Batang Padang P. A.

SECTION 225 OF LABOUR CODE.

Charge brought by the Acting Manager, Sungei Kruit Estate, against one Mohammed Meeran, Kangany of Sungei Klah Estate, of crimping for an Estate in another part of the Country. A similar charge was also brought by the Manager of Sungei Klah Estate against this man, and the man was convicted and sentenced to a fine of $400 or 8 months imprisonment on this second charge. He appealed. The first mentioned charge was dismissed by the Magistrate on the grounds that the cooly concerned was not urged to *bolt,* but only urged to *give notice.*

It should be pointed out that not only was the cooly induced to give notice himself but he was also to induce any other cooly on the Estate he could to "leave."

Herewith short details of the evidence given by Ramasamy, Store cooly, Sungei Kruit Estate, and on which the charge was brought.

He said—"I came to Sungei Kruit in 1914. I knew Mohammed Meeran previously at Sitiawan, and he owed me $60 there. When Mohammed Meeran came to S. Klah I demanded the money but was put off. After repeated demands he told me that he would give me the $60 and a 'santhosham' of $100 if I would get for him about 20 coolies from Sungei Kruit. He told me that he and about 200 Sungei Klah coolies would be going to a certain estate within 2 or 3 months. He gave me the address of the estate and rail fare also to visit that Estate. I went there and was given $10 with a promise of a trip to India if I brought coolies. Later Mohammed Meeran sent for me to see him at a 'kedai' near Sungei Kruit Estate and asked me if I had been successful in getting any coolies. He gave me $2 and told me to get as many as possible as he was making arrangements to send a good number at the beginning of the next month from S. Klah, and another estate in the neighbourhood."

Mr. *Graburn,* after a personal explanation in reply to a previous speaker, urges the necessity of a more equitable interpretation of the section in question. As the ruling of the Court had left it, the law encouraged the establishment of a regular trade in coolies. He proposes that the following addition to Section 225, i, a. be urged: "or shall dishonestly or for his own profit invite or attempt to persuade any labourer to determine by notice or otherwise the service or employment of such labourer."

Mr. *Stewart* seconds the proposal.

Mr. *Irving* thinks that if coolies had been told in India that they could leave any employer on giving a month's notice, the law could not very well now be changed.

Mr. *Macfadyen* opposes the proposed motion, not on the ground that he was not fully in sympathy with it, but on the ground that he did not think they would do any good by sending it forward. In fact, he was so much in sympathy with the proposal that he had been to a great deal of trouble to try and get the law changed. In 1915, on behalf of the Association, he brought before two meetings of the Federal Council a Private Bill embodying the suggested modification of the law. The matter was discussed at two meetings with six months between them, and in the interval Government had abundant opportunity of deciding its policy, and after six months deliberation decided to turn the proposal down. As that was only a year ago he thinks that it would be ineffective, and therefore unwise, to bring the proposal forward again now.

The motion is lost.

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5. Arrest of Absconders.

The *Secretary* submits the following correspondence:—

No. C. P. 584/16.

Kuala Lumpur, 19th July, 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 22nd June, ultimo. This was referred to the Chief Police Officer Perak who reports:

"There are no reports of obstructing the Police on the dates "given by the Secretary to Planters' Association in his letter of "22nd June, nor can any letter sent by the Manager of Sungei "Choh complaining of obstruction be traced."

2. I should be much obliged if you would be so good to afford me further particulars or a copy of the letter addressed to the Inspector of Police.

I have, etc.,
(Sgd.) W. L. Conlay,
Commissioner of Police,
Federated Malay States.

The Secretary,
Planters' Association of Malaya,
Kuala Lumpur.

Kuala Lumpur, 24th July, 1916.

Commissioner of Police, F. M. S.,
Kuala Lumpur.

Sir,

No. 584.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 19th inst. and to enclose in reply copy of a letter written by the Manager of Sungei Choh Estate on April 4th to the Inspector of Police at Tapah.

I also beg to hand you translation of a threatening letter recently received by the Sungei Choh Kangany Letchman who went up to Slim River on April 2nd, as this letter seems to throw some further light on the case in question.

I have, etc.,
(Sgd.) H. C. E. Zacharias,
Secretary.

Kuala Lumpur, 24th August, 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I have had very full enquiries made in the matters referred to in correspondence originating with your letter dated 6th May last and I now send you a copy of a minute by Inspector Morgan who was in charge of the Batang Padang district at the time of the letter referred to in your last letter to me.

2. Inspector Morgan is a very trustworthy officer and I can only conclude in this particular case that the letter went astray. I regret that I have been unable to clear the question.

3. It would be a favour to me and to all Police officers concerned and, I am sure, much more satisfactory to employers, if in any future cases of the nature reported employers would immediately complain, preferably by way of information to the nearest Magistrate and I should be glad if you would make this known generally.

I have, etc.,
(Sgd.) W. L. Conlay,
Commissioner of Police,
Federated Malay States.

The Secretary,
Planters' Association of Malaya,
Kuala Lumpur.

Copy of Minutes by Inspector Morgan.

C. P. O.,

I have not received a letter of any kind from the Manager of Sungei Choh Estate, neither have I received warrants for the arrest of coolies absconding from the above estate.

I recollect being told by the Sergeant at Tanjong Malim that a Kangany had come to T. Malim Station with Warrant of Arrests for absconding coolies, and that the Sergeant had sent a Police Constable with him to Gumus estate at Slim River Station.

The manager of the estate refused to give up the coolies and the Police Constable being alone made no arrests.

If the warrants had been sent to me direct or even after the affair at Gumus estate, I could have taken action, but as it was I did not know what was required.

(Sgd. R. Morgan,
24/8/16. Inspector.

P.S. I have seen nothing of a threatening letter.

(Sgd.) R. Morgan,
24/8/16. Inspector.

Kuala Lumpur, 28th August, 1916.

Commissioner of Police, F. M. S.,
Kuala Lumpur.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter 584 of the 24th inst. and to thank you for the trouble you have taken in the matter in question,

I have since heard from Mr. Bailey that he has been to Slim River with an Inspector from Tanjong Malim and that they have arrested the two ringleaders of the gang which was responsible for interfering with the Police on the former occasion.

As regards the last paragraph of your letter I will draw the attention of my members to this at our next General Meeting.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd.) H. C. E. Zacharias,

Secretary.

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6. Issue of Warrants for the Arrest of Absconders.

The *Secretary* refers to the correspondence on this subject, as printed in the Minutes of Meeting of April 25th 1915, from which it had appeared that if a Magistrate unreasonably refused to issue a warrant, complaint should be made to the Public Prosecutor. He had on that occasion also been instructed, as soon as another good case presented itself, to instruct their solicitors to proceed accordingly.

What had seemed a good case, had recently been forwarded to him by the Kuala Selangor D. P. A. in respect of a coolie absconded from Kampong Kuantan Estate, and the following correspondence had ensued in consequence:

Kuala Lumpur, 13th July, 1916.

Sir,

We are instructed by the Planters' Association of Malaya to call your attention to the fact that magistrates, although gazetted in and for the State of Selangor, often refuse to issue warrants for the arrest of absconding coolies who are residing within the local limits of their jurisdiction, on the ground that the alleged offence has been committed in another district of the State, and that the planter applying should make his application to the magistrate in whose district the estate from which the coolie absconded is situated.

By insistence on this point, which we think sometimes arises from a confusion between the powers of a magistrate to arrest, and his powers to try an offender, much time is lost and many coolies escape.

In the case of a serious offence, such as murder or gang-robbery, there would be no hesitation on the part of any magistrate to order the arrest of a suspected criminal, although, as soon as the arrest was effected the prisoner would have to be sent for trial to the magistrate in whose district the gang-robbery or murder occurred. We submit that the law and procedure are the same in and for the less serious but more frequent offence of absconding.

The facts in the specific instance that we are asked to bring before you are as follows:—

On the 23rd May 1916 one Vengadasalam, a coolie employed under Mr. Money the manager of the Kampong Kuantan Estate, Kuala Selangor, absconded with three other coolies called Letchmi, Veerappen and Chittu. More than a year previously, on the 20th August 1914 another coolie called Vytthu had also absconded from the same estate, and Vengadasalam and his three friends having apparently kept up some communication with him joined him on a Chinese kampong at the 12½ mile from Klang on the Kuala Langat Road within the jurisdiction of the Magistrate at Klang.

On Mr. Money discovering this on the 26th May ulto., he sent their former kangany with a note to the Magistrate at Klang asking for warrants for their arrest, and stating that the kangany would swear the necessary information, and asking that the absconders when arrested should be sent to Kuala Selangor for trial. The reason why Mr. Money applied to the Magistrate at Klang was that the absconders were then living in that district, that had he applied at Kuala Selangor, he would have lost valuable time going there, and that on a warrant being issued in Kuala Selangor the Police there would have sent it by post to the Police at Klang. Not only would there have been much delay, but the chances of capturing the alleged absconders would thereby have been lessened.

Mr. Jarrett, the learned Magistrate at Klang refused to issue the warrant on the complaint of the Kangany and replied to Mr. Money's note as follows:—

"Application to arrest your coolies should be made to the "Magistrate *in whose district* the offence of absconding is alleged "to have been committed."

On the 2nd June we, on behalf of the Planters' Association, wrote to the learned Magistrate shortly setting out the above facts, pointing out that he had been gazetted as a Magistrate in and for the State of Selangor, and stating that our clients would be much obliged if he would inform us of the reasons for his refusal to exercise his powers.

On the 6th June we received a reply from the learned Magistrate stating that he was to be only held answerable for acts done in an official capacity to the British Resident, and that he could not therefore acquaint us with "the very good grounds" on which his action was based.

We think it is clear from the reply to Mr. Money set out above that the learned Magistrate was in fact under a misapprehension at the time as to his powers, or at any rate as to the desirability of his exercise of them. It may possibly be that he considers their exercise, except in the case of serious crime, would be a breach of etiquette towards a brother Magistrate.

We need hardly point out that his attitude is one that causes much needless labour and loss of time and places an interpretation on the words of the Code that is opposed both to its letter and its spirit.

In conclusion we are instructed to request you to communicate with the learned Magistrate with a view to ascertaining on behalf of our clients that in future on a similar case being brought before him he will not hesitate to make use of his powers of arrest, even though the coolies for whose arrest warrants are applied for are alleged to have absconded from an estate situated beyond the limit of the jurisdiction of the Klang Court.

We have, etc.,

(Sgd.) Freeman and Madge.

The Legal Adviser,
Kuala Lumpur.

L. A. 185/1916.

Kuala Lumpur, 14th July, 1916.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 13th stating that the Magistrate at Klang has refused to issue warrants for the arrest of coolies alleged to have absconded from a place of employment in the District of Kuala Selangor and to be residing in the District of Klang, and asking that I will communicate with the Magistrate in order that on another occasion he may act differently.

2. In reply, I have the honour to inform you that, so far as I am aware, I have no authority to issue instructions to a Magistrate as to the manner in which his duties are to be performed.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd.) W. H. Whitley,
Acting Legal Adviser, F. M. S.

Messrs. Freeman and Madge,
Advocates and Solicitors,
Kuala Lumpur.

Kuala Lumpur, 14th July, 1916.

Sir,

With reference to your reply to our letter of yesterday's date we think that you have the power to advise any officer of the Government in the discharge of his duties.

As the learned Magistrate at Klang would appear to be either unaware of the extent of his powers, or, if aware of them, for some motive undisclosed to be unwilling to use them, we again venture to suggest that you should as Legal Adviser advise him as to his powers in the circumstances laid before you in our letter, in order that the public interest may not continue to suffer from his refusal to use them.

The matter is not one that affects merely a few people or that has arisen for the first time. It affects the whole of the planting interest of this country and is only the latest of many instances.

We have, etc.,
(Sgd.) Freeman and Madge.

The Legal Adviser, F. M. S.,
Kuala Lumpur.

L. A. No. 185/1916.

Kuala Lumpur, 17th July, 1916.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your further letter of July 14th on the subject of the refusal of the Magistrate at Klang to issue warrants for the arrest of certain absconding coolies, and, in reply to repeat that I have no authority to interfere in the manner which you desire.

I have, etc.,
(Sgd.) W. H. Whitley,
Ag: Legal Adviser, F. M. S.

Messrs. Freeman and Madge,
Advocates and Solicitors,
Kuala Lumpur.

Kuala Lumpur, 20th July, 1916.

Sir,

We are instructed by the Planters' Association of Malaya to request you to bring to the attention of the Britsh Resident the great inconvenience and loss often caused to the planting community by the refusal of Magistrates who have been gazetted in and for the State of Selangor to issue warrants for absconding coolies where the coolies are alleged to have absconded from an estate situated within the local limits of the jurisdiction of another Magistrate.

Within the last few years there have been frequent complaints by various planters. We are instructed to bring a specific instance before you, the full details of which are set out in the correspondence a copy of which is sent herewith.

We have, etc.,
(Sgd.) Freeman and Madge.

The Secretary to
The British Resident,

No. 3 in 3704/16.

Kuala Lumpur, 3rd August, 1916.

Gentlemen,

With further reference to your letter of the 20th July, concerning the arrest of absconding coolies, I have the honour to inform you that the Resident is of opinion that in the cases detailed in your letter the proper course for the manager of the estate to have taken was to have laid information before the Magistrate at Kuala Selangor as soon as it was ascertained that the coolies had bolted, which appears to have been on 23rd May, 1916, in four cases, and in one case on the 20th August, 1914.

I have, etc.,
(Sgd.) O. F. Stonor,
Secretary to Resident, Selangor.

Messrs. Freeman and Madge,
Kuala Lumpur.

Kuala Lumpur, 4th August, 1916.

Dear Sir,

Refusal of Magistrates to issue Warrants.

We enclose a letter we have to-day received from the Secretary to Resident, and as arranged with you we have seen the Resident upon it.

He informs us that the Chief Police Officer advises him that the correct procedure would have been for Mr. Money to have applied for warrants to issue at Kuala Selangor immediately after the coolies had absconded, and that the police at Kuala Selangor on being informed that the coolies had been traced into the Klang District would have written to the Police at Klang to arrest them, if Mr. Money had telephoned to Kuala Selangor requesting them to do so. The Police at Klang on the receipt of this letter would have acted without waiting for the warrants.

The Resident is of opinion that this course would have involved the expenditure of less time and trouble than that actually taken, and stated that the Magistrate at Klang, unless he knew Mr. Money personally, could not be expected to act on a letter from him. We gathered that he thought he might perhaps have done so had he known Mr. Money, but on the facts laid before him he seemed strongly of opinion that the Magistrate acted rightly in refusing the warrants.

He also stated generally that he thought that Managers of Estates were wrong in waiting till they ascertained the whereabouts of absconding coolies, and that many difficulties would be obviated if warrants were always applied for immediately after they absconded in the District where the estate employing them was situated.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) Freeman and Madge.

The Secretary,
Planters' Association of Malaya,
Kuala Lumpur.

The *Secretary* adds that there had been a further development. It had since been ascertained that the A. D. O., Klang, (the Magistrate in question) had never been gazetted for the whole State of Selangor, but only for the district of Klang (vide Gazette Notification 295 of 1907), although the Under Secretary in his letter 7330 of December 12th 1914 had told them that all Magistrates were being appointed in and for their States.

Mr. *Ferguson* says he knew of a magistrate who refused to issue warrants, if he was not told the whereabouts of the absconded coolies.

Mr. *Macfadyen* proposes that the British Resident be informed that the A. D. O., Klang, is not a magistrate in and for the State, and that he be asked to make him so.

Agreed to.

7. Coolies' Work in their Spare Time.

The *Secretary* reports that the Central Pahang P. A. had referred to him the following point:

"Is a tapping cooly who can work every day throughout the "month, allowed to work in the evening in native holdings? If "he is allowed, is also the native holder allowed to employ him "knowing that he belongs to this Estate? If the offence is punish-"able, could you kindly inform me under what section action should "be taken."

He had consulted Messrs. Freeman and Madge on the subject and had obtained the following opinion from them:

Opinion as to whether coolies can be prevented from working for others than their employers in their spare time.

We are asked to advise if a labourer who is employed on a rubber estate can be prevented from working in his spare time for another employer.

Labourers (under the Labour Code 1912) are employed under (*a*) Agreements (see Part III Ch: 6 of the Code) and (*b*) Contracts (see Part III Ch: 7).

Under a contract, which must be in writing, signed in the presence of the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, or the Controller of Labour, and in a form approved by the Chief Secretary to Government, (section 75) we think that such a provision might be inserted with success, if the Secretary for Chinese Affairs or the Controller of Labour, as the case may be, would agree to it. They would be unlikely to do this without the approval of the Chief Secretary, for, although they can approve alterations and additions to the form approved by the Chief Secretary, this provision might be construed strictly. We think also that the Chief Secretary might be advised that such a provision would be ultra vires the Code in view of the provisions of Chapter VIII Sections 99 and 100. These provisions are general in their application that is they apply both to contract labourers, and to labourers under agreements.

With regard to the latter, who include the great bulk of the labour force of the country and respecting whom, we gather, our opinion as to the legality of such a provision is chiefly desired, we are of opinion that it would be against the provisions of the Enactment. Section 99 states that "No labourer shall be bound to work on more than six days in one week or more than six consecutive hours, or (subject as hereinafter mentioned) more than nine hours a day of actual labour,"

The exceptions do not affect this question. Section 100 states "(i) It shall be lawful for the employer to assign tasks to be performed by labourers as equivalent to work for a day of nine hours..... (ii) after performing his task for the day the labourer shall be at liberty, if he pleases, to commence and carry on a fresh task. (iii) ..... no labourer shall be compelled to work for more than nine hours in any one day."

It seems clear from Section 100 ss. 2 and 3 that at the expiry of his daily work of nine hours, or a task equivalent to that period, the labourer is free to go on working for the employer, or to work for some one else if he desires, for ss.. ii states that he may (if he wishes) work for his employer for more than nine hours, though he cannot be compelled to do so (s. sect. iii). It therefore follows that the law does not contemplate that the coolie will necessarily cease to work at the end of his nine hours. It merely preserves his freedom of choice after he has accomplished that task, and does not regard him as incapacitated from further work, and, as there is nothing in the Code that takes away his liberty to dispose of his spare time as he wishes, it follows that he can utilize it by working for another employer.

If our opinion is correct it would be illegal for any employer to make a rule that his coolies should not work for others in their spare time. Even if his coolies agreed to such a rule they could not be prevented from disregarding it, or punished for doing so. There is of course no objection to an employer dismissing a coolie who works for others on giving him proper notice of dismissal.

The opinion of
Freeman and Madge.

21st August, 1916.

Mr. *Tayler* points out that this was another matter that had been covered by Mr. Macfadyen's private Bill, which had unfortunately proved abortive.

Mr. *Duncan* observes that in the circumstances it seemed futile to re-open the matter and that it had better be dropped for the time being.

Agreed to.

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8. **Alienation of Large Areas.**

The *Secretary* recalls that at the last meeting, in regard to the reported alienation of large areas and their probable effect on labour

questions, he had been instructed to get information as to what applications had been made and what areas alienated. Early in July he had interviewed the Chief Secretary, who assured him that no land had so far been alienated in the F. M. S. He then made further enquiries, from which he ascertained that apparently some 20,000 acres of land had been applied for in the Lower Perak district by persons who are believed to wish to dispose of any rights that they may obtain to the Goodyear Co.; but these applications had only just been filed and certainly not yet been approved. Another enquiry in Johore led him to ascertain that last year the Waterhouse Company had got a concession of 20,000 acres in the Indau District. As to the United States General Rubber Co., suspected of either having applied for land or bought a large estate, he learned that so far they had done nothing, and he had good reason for believing that for the present at least they did not contemplate doing anything either.

The *Secretary* further reports the receipt of the following letter from the Kuala Selangor D. P. A.:—

"In reference to the alienation of large areas, I am instructed "to write to you to record this Association's strong opinion that "the granting of titles in respect of land to any person or persons "not of British nationality, *i.e.*, not being a citizen or citizens of "the British Empire, is inadvisable, taking into consideration ex- "isting circumstances and the certainty that in the future there "will be a large amount of *bona fide* British capital available for "investment in this country. This Association, however, is in "favour of an exception being made to the opinion detailed above "in favour of citizens of countries at present allied to Great "Britain."

Mr. *Macfadyen* ventures to think that the resolution of the Kuala Selangor Association seemed in every way a suitable one for the Paris Conference, but was the P. A. M. really called upon to express an opinion on such a very broad question of Imperial policy? (Laughter.)

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9. Toddy.

Mr. *Duncan* remarks that the Toddy Commission, the constitution of which had been somewhat enlarged since their last meeting, was still sitting, and that it would therefore serve no purpose to discuss the subject to-day.

10. War Relief.

The *Secretary* reports the receipt to-date during their present financial year of $20,016.68, distributed as follows:

Batang Padang	$617.77	
Batu Tiga	995.00	
Central Perak	1,033.44	
Kajang	777.00	
Kapar	1,501.70	
Klang	3,400.00	
Krian	1,145.78	
Kuala Langat	600.00	
Kuala Lumpur	1,104.68	
Kuala Selangor	1,038.49	
Lower Perak	341.00	
Negri Sembilan	2,052.90	
Taiping	1,691.30	
Ulu Selangor	1,228.15	
Total F. M. S.		$17,527.21
Colony		584.42
Johore		704.00
Kelantan		820.39
Kedah		380.66
Grand Total ..		$20,016.68

To this sum there had of course to be added the $31,566.43 collected by him during the previous financial year. (Applause.)

As regards Government assistance, he was able through the courtesy of Mr. H. P. Clodd, as Hon. Secretary of the F. M. S. War Relief Fund, to lay before the meeting the following letters, which defined the attitude of the Colonial and Johore Governments.

Kuala Lumpur, 17th August, 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 26th July regarding the Federated Malay States War Relief Fund. I communicated it to Sir Arthur Young who desires me to inform you that you are mistaken in considering that he ever stated that the Colony would not contribute dollar for dollar contributed by estates in the Straits Settlements towards pensions for wounded officers and assistance to their dependents.

I enclose a memorandum showing what the Straits Government is prepared to do in the matter.

I have, etc.,
(Sgd.) E. L. Brockman,
Chief Secretary, F. M. S.

The Hon. Secretary,
F. M. S. War Relief Fund,
Kuala Lumpur.

Relief Fund for Residents in the Straits Settlements, who may be disabled or killed during the War. Same rule to be applied as is in force with regard to the local relief fund in Singapore, namely that without the special sanction of the Government pensions granted to Privates or Non-Commissioned Officers to be not greater than those granted to a Second Lieutenant under the Army Regulation. Same rule as regards their dependents. Government is prepared to contribute dollar for dollar as against subscriptions made by Estates in the Colony to the Federated Malay States Relief Fund.

Johore Bharu, 15-8-16.

Dear Clodd,

The question of the Johore Government paying dollar for dollar towards the amount subscribed by the Johore public on Johore Rubber and Tin Companies is now under consideration and I hope shortly such an arrangement will become to. The money would be put at the disposal of the Committee of which Sir William Taylor is Chairman.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) F. J. Weld.

The *Secretary* gives further a resume of the relief so far granted by the London Executive Committee.

Mr. *Macfadyen* thinks it would enhance the usefulness of the fund, if all members would bring the existence of the Fund to the notice of all likely to benefit from it.

Mr. *Duncan* expresses their satisfaction at the results so far achieved. He hoped however that subscriptions would not dwindle. Surely the fact that there was no rapid depletion of the fund was no reason for withholding their support.

The *Secretary* reports the receipt of an appeal for the "Star and Garter Hospital;" and is instructed to inform all District Planters' Associations, that he is authorized to collect subscriptions to the said fund.

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11. Rubber Thefts.

The *Secretary* reports having circularized all Districts, as instructed, and submits summary of replies received:

Kuala Lumpur, 27th June, 1916.

Dear Sir,

RUBBER THEFTS.

The urgency of the above question having again been put forward at a meeting of this Association held on the 25th inst., it was agreed, that, until the Government sees fit to take adequate steps to remedy radically the present unsatisfactory state of affairs, it would be necessary for this Association to continue the careful collection of all cases of Rubber Thefts as they occurred, so as to have an authoritative record on which to base their case.

I was therefore instructed to ask all Constituent Associations to keep accurate records of all cases of rubber and latex thefts occurring in their district and to supply me with a summary of same once a month.

I should be much obliged if you would accordingly kindly collect all facts in respect of your district for June and favour me with an abstract of same as soon as convenient.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Believe me, etc.,
(Sgd.) H. C. E. Zacharias,
Secretary.

Bertam.	Malay caught buying scrap from tapper	2 months.
	Javanese tapper steals latex ..	14 days.
	Malay prosecuted for buying rubber without license ..	case dismissed.
Kuala Sidin, (Kedah).	49 sheets and pans stolen out of coagulation shed	No arrest.
	Malay tapper steals latex twice and scrap once	6 months.
Tali Ayer.	709 lbs. scrap stolen out of drying shed	No arrests.
Alor Pongsu.	Malay tapper steals latex for two months	$25.
	Receiver (Malay) in above case	$100.
Bakap.	100 lbs. stolen out of factory ..	No arrests.
	2 Malays steal latex	Convicted.
Lumboh Kluang, (Bagan Serai).	3 pkls. sheet in 2 chests stolen ..	No arrests.
R. E. of Krian.	167 lbs. sheet stolen out of Smoke House	do.
Kombok Estate.	Chinese cooly caught in the act of tapping. Sentenced ..	6 mos. R. I.
Sepang Valley.	3221 lbs. dry rubber stolen out of tapping	
	Thief not traced	
Pengkalan Durian.	Malay stealing scrap	3 months.
Kajang D. P. A.		
5.	200 trees damaged by night tapping	No arrest.
6.	1800 trees damaged by night tapping	do.
7.	$60 worth of scrap rubber stolen. Bengali Watchman convicted	6 mos. R. I.
11.	Intermittent night tapping and afternoon tapping fairly frequent. 500 trees damaged. Malays seen on two occasions, the second time leaving a can of latex behind.	
14.	Continual small thefts always going on, presumably native holders on borders of estate.	

June .—*Continued.*

	1,000 trees damaged by night tapping.	
Bukit Mertajam.	During May and June 1916 night tapping by outsiders took place	No arrests.
	A Chinaman on adjoining small Estate was charged with receiving stolen rubber ..	28 days.
	During June a Malay tapper was found with 20 lbs. scrap, arrested but escaped ..	
R. E. of Krian.	Rubber Factory at Chan Seng Estate broken into and 50 sheets stolen	No arrests.

July, 1916.

Bertam Estate.	Reports 350 trees tapped at night	do.
Jendarata Est.	225 trees tapped; trees seriously damaged	
Ulu Kanchong, (Negri Sembilan).	97 sheets stolen from Smoke House; Malay Store cooly convicted	3 months.
Changkat Asa.	Chinese tapper caught with latex he had coagulated	6 months.
Tanjong Malim.	Kampong Malay caught receiving rubber from Tamil cooly	cooly bolted.
Sungei Kruit.	Chinaman caught stealing scrap	6 mos. R. I.
Carey Island.	72 lbs. crepe rubber found hidden near Factory. Chinese builders suspected.	
Midlands Estate.	800 trees tapped at night and badly wounded.	
do.	400 trees tapped at night and badly wounded.	
Kajang District. 1.	1,000 trees badly wounded, bark found with wood adhering. Every one of the trees was stripped of bark for about ¼ of an inch.	

The *Secretary* further reports the receipt of the following letter:

No. 1254/1916.

Kuala Lumpur, 25th July, 1916.

Sir,

Referring to your letter dated the 1st March, 1916, and subsequent correspondence, I am directed to inform you that the Government has given careful consideration to the question of the increase in thefts of latex and rubber in the Federated Malay States. It is regretted that there should have been such delay in replying to the representations of the Planters' Association of Malaya, but it was considered necessary to consult the Police Authorities and the Residents.

It is apparent that there has been a considerable increase in the number of thefts but having regard to the enormous increase in the production of this valuable article it is not considered a matter for great surprise that there should have been an increase in the number of thefts and this would seem to indicate that the owners of rubber estates do not take adequate measures to protect their valuable produce from the depredation of thieves.

The Government is not satisfied that any action on the part of the Government is necessary and does not therefore consider that any useful purpose would be served by appointing a Committee as suggested by the Planters' Association of Malaya.

I have, etc.,
(Sgd.) S. McArthur,
Under Secretary, F. M. S.

The Secretary,
Planters' Association of Malaya,
Kuala Lumpur.

Mr. *Duncan* feels that they could not allow the matter to rest there. The position was getting steadily worse and the loss was not merely the loss of rubber, but the destruction of their trees. They were told that the onus of protecting their property was on the owners: but protection could only be effected, if they armed the whole of their labour force with guns and kept them watching each field day and night. Was that a procedure that would commend itself to the Government?

Clearly there were only two methods, whereby this growing evil could be dealt with—(1) increased efficiency of the Police and

(2) stricter control of rubber dealing. He moved that the matter be referred to the Standing Committee for further action.

Mr. *Tayler* seconds the proposal and thinks it would be instructive to know, what Government considered to be "adequate measures to protect their produce." He knew of one high Government official who had put forward the lucid proposition of putting a ten feet brick wall round their estates, as was done in the gold mines. (Laughter.)

Mr. *Duncan's* proposal is agreed to.

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12. Rules 6 and 9.

The *Secretary* reports that he had circularized all Constituent Associations, as instructed at their last meeting, as follows:—

Kuala Lumpur, June 27th, 1916.

Dear Sir,

AMENDMENT OF RULES 6 AND 9.

As you are aware, a proposal for the alteration of these two rules has appeared on the Agenda of our meetings of April 26th and June 25th. At the latter it was decided to circularise all district associations inviting them to express their opinion on the proposed change. It is hoped to decide the question definitely at our next meeting, which has been fixed for August 30th.

In the meantime, I should be much obliged if you would kindly let me know the total acreage represented by the members of your Association and also favour me with any expression of opinion on the subject which your Association may wish to submit at the meeting in question.

Believe me, etc.,

(Sgd.) H. C. E. Zacharias,

Secretary.

The *Secretary* summarises the replies received, which had all been in favour of the proposed amendments; excepting (1) the Johore P. A., who wrote that they wished to record their objection to the proposed alteration in the Rules;

(2) the Taiping P. A., who were strongly against the alteration of Rules 6 and 9;

(3) the Ulu Selangor D. P. A., who considered that small estates enjoyed equal rights and privileges with large estates, and that their subscription should therefore be the same.

Mr. *McCulloch* formally moves again the alteration of Rules 6 and 9, viz.

To substitute for Rules 6 and 9—

6. "Each Constituent Association shall be represented by one member for every 10,000 or part thereof of the planted acres represented by the members."

9. "The Annual Contribution from each Constituent Association shall be on the basis of the planted acreage represented by each Constituent Association, and the amount shall be determined once a year at the Annual General Meeting, and shall become due on the 1st day of May of every year, and no Constituent Association shall have the right of voting or otherwise enjoy any of the privileges of Association, until such annual subscription shall have been paid."

He hardly thought it necessary to go again at length into his reasons, which were embodied in his last remarks on the subject, as printed in the minutes of their last meeting. If there still lingered the idea that his proposal was due to some deep and sinister motive on the part of the Negri Sembilan Association, he once more wished to disclaim any such intention and to say again that the only reason for the change was a desire to place the revenue of the P. A. M. and the basis of their assessment on a firm and businesslike footing. He could only repeat that his proposal did not aim at nor could it interfere with the internal economy of any Constituent Association. The point raised by Ulu Selangor for instance simply did not arise, as it was one, which did not affect the relation of that Association with the P. A. M., but on the contrary was a purely local matter.

Mr. *Ferguson* seconds the motion.

Mr. *Leggatt* says his Association agreed with the proposal but felt it would be unfair for rubber in bearing to pay more and at the same time not get an equivalent in the way of representation. He therefore proposes the following addition to the suggested new rule "each acre in bearing to count as one and a half acres for the purpose of calculation."

Mr. *Harvey,* seconding Mr. Leggatt, points out that 80 per cent of the cultivated area represented by their District Association was in bearing, and the wording of Mr. McCulloch's rule would make a difference of one delegate less to them.

Mr. *Duncan* agrees that the amendment of the Kuala Lumpur Association was eminently fair; though he doubted the necessity of differentiating for the sake of a few years only.

He understands that the total area represented by the P.A.M. had not yet been ascertained, but was expected to exceed 600,000 acres. Of course they had to remember that, as the number of delegates increased, the individual contribution for each decreased.

Mr. *Leggatt's* amendment is then put to the vote and declared lost by 14 to 10 votes.

Mr. *McCulloch's* proposal is then put to the vote and unanimously carried.

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13. **Date of Meetings.**

Mr. *Harvey* proposes:

"That the General Meetings of the Association be held "on the last Wednesday of every alternate month, unless "otherwise fixed by the Standing Committee."

This is seconded by Mr. *Tayler* and carried unanimously.

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14. **Quarantine Camp at Port Swettenham.**

The *Secretary* reads the following correspondence and report:—

Kuala Lumpur, 7th August, 1916.

Principal Medical Officer, F. M. S.,
Kuala Lumpur.

Sir,

I am instructed to enquire, in view of the great uneasiness prevailing in planting circles owing to recent reports of the existence of unsanitary conditions and the lack of adequate supervision at the Port Swettenham Quarantine Camp, whether you would kindly permit two members of our Association, to be nominated by our Standing Committee, to make an immediate visit of inspection to the said camp.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I have, etc.,
(Sgd.) H. C. E. Zacharias,
Secretary.

Kuala Lumpur, 9-8-1916.

Sir,

I shall be only too pleased if two members of the P. A. M. Committee would visit Port Swettenham and see for themselves that the exaggerated rumours concerning the Quarantine Camp need not cause uneasiness. Your letter dated 7-8-16 reached me this morning. Kindly let me know when the visit is to be paid.

I have, etc.,
(Sgd.) Charles Lane Sansom,
Principal Medical Officer, F. M. S.

Kuala Lumpur, August 9th, 1916.

Principal Medical Officer, F. M. S.,
Kuala Lumpur.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of even date and in reply beg to inform you that Messrs. F. G. Harvey and G. H. Bennett will avail themselves of your kind permission to visit the Port Swettenham Camp on Friday morning the 11th inst. at about 9 a.m.

I have, etc.,
(Sgd.) H. C. E. Zacharias,
Secretary.

Report on the Port Swettenham Quarantine Camp.

To The Members of the Standing Committee,
Planters' Association of Malaya.

Petaling, Selangor, August 26th, 1916.

Gentlemen,

We visited the Depot and Quarantine Camp at Port Swettenham on 11th inst. and beg to make report as follows:—

Depot. There were about 60 coolies here waiting to be called for. At 10 a.m. a further 1,200 coolies were drafted from the Quarantine Camp to the Depot, being marched along the roads under escort, distance being about ¾ mile.

This batch of 1,200 had been in quarantine for 16 days. All looked contented, well fed and in good condition. No complaints whatever were made or heard. The depot sheds were clean, but the latrines were unpleasant. The Clerk informed us that the buckets

would be cleaned at 10 a.m. We would like to see the same system (as regards latrines) in the depot as is in vogue in the quarantine camp, especially as the one place has to do for all coolies. Possibly the position of the depot as regards sea level will not permit of the open latrine system being adopted.

The sorting and despatch of coolies appears to be carefully attended to. A batch for Johore Bahru were sent off that morning. The clerk in charge said that they would get something to eat at Tampin through arrangements made by Messrs Boustead Hampshire & Co. but whether this is correct, we are not sure. Certainly some food and drink should be provided for coolies having to travel such a long distance by train as from Port Swettenham to Johore Bahru.

Quarantine Camp. We were met here by Drs. Sansom and Hacker. The shape of the camp resembles a cart wheel, the sheds being the spokes and the food establishment the hub. There are 12 large sheds, each surrounded by a formidable looking wire fence, which neither of us felt at all inclined to try to surmount. It is possible that coolies may be able to escape through or over these fences, but not without the assistance of others.

We carefully inspected the sheds. They are remarkably good buildings both as regards design and construction. Ventilation and temperature have had special attention and the result is particularly good, the temperature being quite cool and the atmosphere fresh.

The sleeping benches are in two tiers and the boards are loose, so that they can be cleaned and kept free from vermin with ease.

The latrines are the best we have seen and bathing arrangements are satisfactory.

With regard to feeding arrangements, Dr. Sansom reported that there had been a lot of trouble with one contractor, he being a man of straw, and with no control over his coolies. The new man just appointed appears to be a more substantial man and has a good supply of provisions in the store rooms, plenty of cooking vessels and a large staff of cooks and mates.

To our mind the kitchen accommodation is insufficient and should be extended, and the space between the kitchen and store rooms should be cemented. We understand that the P. W. D. have been asked to do the latter as soon as possible.

We would suggest that a light railway be laid from the main road to the store rooms, so that there would be no necessity for

bullock carts to enter the camp at all, and plough up the roads.

The coolies are fed twice a day, at 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. When we visited the kitchen at 10 a.m. there were three large wooden chests full of boiled rice. This appeared to be the remainder of the morning rice and was being kept for the afternoon meal. We were told that no rice was kept till the next day, but nevertheless it would be nicer if the afternoon rice were not boiled quite so soon. This would probably be the case if the kitchen accomodation were more commodious. In this respect we were told that the contractor had permission to use one of the store rooms as an emergency kitchen, but had not taken advantage of this.

However, if, as suggested, the kitchen be extended 20 feet at each end we have no doubt that he would make use of all the space.

We inspected the vegetables and other provisions: The former are chopped up on the cement floors of the store rooms. Boards should, we think, be used for this purpose, both for the sake of the coolies and of the cement.

Flies were in evidence but no more so than could be expected.

Plantain leaves are provided by the contractor for the coolies to eat their rice off. Enamelled plates were at one time used, but were discontinued on account of sentiment with regard to caste. Dr. Sansom would like to see plates used again, as leaves are expensive and make a great litter about the place. But having made careful enquiries we have come to the conclusion that caste prejudices must be respected in this case. High caste coolies say that they would not eat rice off plates, preferring to go without or eat off their cloths. Mr. Hose when Controller of Labour went into this matter very thoroughly, and we believe was convinced that plates should not be used.

Dr. Hacker was made Medical Officer in charge of the Quarantine Camp about a week ago, and has, we feel sure, done a great deal of work in that time. We would like to suggest that such an Officer be stationed at the camp during the busy months each year, as such an extremely large establishment should have resident European control.

Accommodation of Camp. There are ten wards designed to hold 344 coolies each, (allowing 3 feet x 6 feet bench space for each person). In addition there are two isolation wards for 116 coolies each. Total accommodation is therefore 3,672 coolies.

The largest number there has been in the camp was 5,438 coolies in July, but for one day only.

On the day of our visit there were 3,474 coolies in camp, including the 1,200 we saw being transferred to the Depot.

Since August 1st, the largest number has been 4,078.

In case of overflow, Dr. Sansom said that the Cattle Quarantine Sheds could be used.

We think that in a emergency 400 coolies could be put into each large ward and 150 into each isolation ward without inconvenience but that does not make the total accommodation of the camp more than 4,300. Whether that figure is sufficient in view of small-pox segregation of 15 days, same being liable to repetition, is a matter that requires careful consideration and a critical examination of this year's Camp statistics.

In conclusion we would like to record our impression that the Port Swettenham Quarantine Camp is a remarkably fine institution and that the condition of affairs generally at the time of our visit was, on the whole, quite satisfactory.

The guarding of the Camp is in the hands of the Police Department and it is possible that there is a lack of co-operation between that department and the camp authorities, and that may have led to a certain number of escapes from Camp. Since Dr. Hacker came there have been no absconders.

Our recommendations are as follows:—

1. The regular stationing of a Medical Officer at the Quarantine Camp during the recruiting months.
2. 40 feet addition to length of kitchen.
3. A light railway from entrance to centre of Camp.
4. Depot latrines same as those in the Camp.

(Sgd.) F. G. Harvey,
G. H. Bennett.

The *Secretary* also reports receipt of the following resolution from the Klang D. P. A.:—"That in the big recruiting season a European Doctor and sufficient staff be stationed at Port Swettenham to supervise the Quarantine Camp."

Mr. *Duncan* expresses the thanks of the Association to Messrs. Harvey and Bennett for their careful and interesting report.

Mr. *Mooijaart* regrets the absence of a greater co-operation between the Labour Dept. (who were responsible for the Depot) and the Medical Department (who were in charge of the Camp). At

present all coolies had to spend at least one night at the Depot, but with a little organization it surely ought to be possible for coolies to be sent straight from the Camp to their estate.

Dr. *Sansom* welcomes such visits of inspection and promises personal attention to any recommendations. The recent absence of a Medical Officer was owing to the illness of the Medical Officer at Klang and was not a permanent feature. As they had gathered from the report made by Messrs. Harvey and Bennett, there was no foundation in the rumour that at one time there had been 8,000 coolies at the camp. As regards the alleged neglect of small-pox patients, there had not been any and he would be glad to explain the matter privately.

Mr. *Noel Fisher* concurs with Mr. Mooijaart that the despatch of coolies could be considerably accelerated, if there was a little more organization.

Mr. *Aldworth* reminds the meeting that the Agents had an office inside the camp and were therefore in a position to know exactly what coolies were ready for despatch. His impression was that they were short of escorts and that they found it to their advantage to keep coolies longer at the depot, than was really necessary.

Mr. *Bennett* thinks if the Depot knew in good time, what coolies to expect, that they would be able to make better arrangements.

Mr. *Leggatt* suggests a regular scheme of visits to be arranged by the P. A. M. as in the case of the Decrepit Home for Tamils at Kuala Lumpur.

Mr. *Macfadyen* says Dr. Sansom had initiated a proposal that the Immigration Committee should appoint a roster of visitors. He proposes that the Immigration Committee be invited to consider whether the Camp and Depot might not with advantage be placed under a single administration.

Mr. *Mooijaart* seconds the proposal, which is carried unanimously.

Mr. *Harvey* moves that the recommendations contained in their Report be forwarded to the Under Secretary.

Mr. *McCulloch* seconds the motion, which is agreed to unanimously.

15. Chinese Labour.

The *Secretary* reports the receipt of the following letter:—

Nilai, 12th August, 1916.

The Secretary,
Planters' Association of Malaya,
Kuala Lumpur.

Dear Sir,

At a General Meeting of this Association held on the 1st inst. the following resolution was passed:—

"That the P. A. M. Standing Committee be asked to confer "with Government:

1. As to the advisability of extending the Indian Immigration scheme so as to apply to Chinese.

2. As to the imposition of a general labour tax upon all employers of all coolies alien to this country, the proceeds of this tax to be used to reimburse the individual employer's expenses incurred in recruiting labour."

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) Francis J. Fane,
Hon. Secretary, Negri Sembilan P. A.

Mr. *McCulloch* considers that the present haphazard method of recruiting Chinese was wholly inadequate, especially in view of the great further development of this country, which was sure to follow the close of the War. He failed to see how this recruiting could be done fairly and on a sufficiently large scale, without co-operation. However, he quite realized that the notice given had been very short and explains the steps which had led up to his own Association passing the Resolution, for which he was personally responsible, in addition to a somewhat similar proposal of not so wide a scope. In the circumstances, he would content himself to-day to propose that the question be referred to the Standing Committee with instructions to report to the next General Meeting.

Mr. *Macfadyen* seconds the proposal, which is carried unanimously.

16. General.

The *Secretary* brings to the notice of members (1) an offer from the Superintendent, Home for Decrepit Indians, of making scrap bags;

(2) the following warning from the Chief Electrical Inspector:

Kuala Lumpur, 16th August, 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to request you to draw the attention of the Secretaries of the various local Planters' Associations to the fact that under "The Electricity Enactment, 1913" all electrical installations, however small, must be reported to me so that inspection can be made and that penalties are provided for neglect to report.

2. I have recently come across several installations on Estates which have not been reported. I am loth to prosecute without definite warning but the fact that the Enactment is in operation was advertised in the local Press and ignorance of the laws of the Country cannot be pleaded as a valid excuse.

3. I am therefore asking you to assist me to carry out the provisions of the Enactment without causing unnecessary unpleasantness to the Planting Community.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd.) J. C. M. Matthews,

Ag: Chief Electrical Inspector,

Under the Electricity Enactment, F. M. S.

The Secretary,

Planters' Association of Malaya,

Kuala Lumpur.

Mr. *Ferguson* invites the Association to hold their next meeting at Ipoh, *i.e.* on Oct. 25th.

Mr. *Duncan* on behalf of the Association accepts the invitation with pleasure.

The Meeting terminates at 12.45 p.m.

(Sgd.) H. C. E. Zacharias,

Secretary.